

AN
ANSWER

TO THE

Secret Transactions

WITH

William Gregg in Newgate.

OR, A

VINDICATION

OF

Seven Noble Peers,

BESIDES THE

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*An ANSWER to the Secret Transactions
with William Gregg, &c.*

IT is not many Months since some Persons were sent for before a *Great Man*, to give an Account of a certain Piece they had Printed and Publish'd; which seem'd indeed to carry with it a very dangerous Countenance, but the Answer salv'd all, and is very remarkable. Being ask'd — Why they had Printed such a Thing? *They said it was to get a Penny*, and there being no great reason to doubt from the Principles of the Men, but that their Answer was True, no more notice was taken of the Matter.

Now I, that imagine there is Ten times the reason to presume the present Piece wears the same Complexion, shall have the less Trouble to give an Answer to that, which in it self indeed signifies nothing, but the manner, and mean's of Contriving it has something in it worth Observation.

As to Mr. *Hoffman*, I have only a distant Account of his Qualifications and Profession: Yet his Introduction, Apology and Wonderful pretty Method of bringing his Observations

uations upon the Stage are very Remarkable, and shew him to be a Man of no little Capacity; but whether it lies in Letters or no, I am not able to Determine, and truly I am something apt to believe the Contrary.

If I am not very much mistaken, he was a Follower of the late *French Prophets*; which agreed naturally with his *Euthusiastick* Temper, yet how his Interest cou'd sway so Good, Pious, and Honest a Man, as Mr. Lorrain, to concern himself in such an Affair at this Time, to expose his Name in Print to oblige his Friend Hoffman to write a pretty long Letter, when he might have told him the Story by word of Mouth with much less Trouble, shou'd argue him a Man of no small Reputation and Esteem among the Learned and Ingenious.

Besides, this was reviving a Story to no manner of purpose; unless the Reasons I have before given; and to suppose that Men of Goodness, Piety, and Honesty, shou'd Scribble to get a Penny, is to suppose, that Mr. Lorrain, has done it, which I am unwilling to believe. What cou'd be said of Gregg's Christian-like Behaviour, and his clearly and indisputably acquitting Mr. H—y, Mr. Lorrain had done in Publishing his Paper some little time after his Death, and it might have rested there; for I believe
since

since that time, no Man has ever imagin'd any *Ill* of that (now) worthy Peer; and if any thing cou'd give unlucky *Ideas*, it must be, that so long after the contrivers of this Piece, shou'd seem to render it still in dispute.

But to return, I shall pick out a few of the Paragraphs thereof, which seem to have any meaning in them, and Answer them as I go along.

After two or three Impertinent Appologies, which seem'd very much Stain'd and Invented he comes to the Point as follows.

I was Abroad at the time of Mr. William Gregg's Tryal insomuch, that till very lately (tho' it made so much Noise in the World I had neither a just Account of it, nor seen his Dying Speech, only by the common Vogue, the great Esteem People had of the Duke of Marlborough, on Account of his Glorious Successes Abroad, occasion'd them to think very hardly of the Right Honourable Mr. ROBERT HARLY, then one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, when (as was reported) they heard his Grace would have laid down, unless the other was remou'd.

It seems a very unhappy Thing, that this Worthy, and Understanding Person, who had so high an Esteem of those two great Men, shou'd accidentally be Abroad at that time, (tho' he do's not tell you where, and it seems

seems for all that, he heard of it by the common Vogue) When by this Influence with Mr. Lorrain, his great Genius, and wonderful Love of Truth, he might have been as happy in clearing up these Points then, as he has been at this time: And it seems it was for the common Vogue too, that he heard his Grace wou'd lay down unless Mr. Harley was removed; for my Part, I am apt to conceive this notable Person might as well be deceiv'd in one Article as the other, and that this new Revelation may as well occur from common Vogue, as the indigested Account he receiv'd.

Hearing some People very lately reflect on Mr. Harley, on Gregg's Account, even since his being made a Peer, and Lord High Treasurer I thought my self obliged, by Truth and Justice, to remove their Prejudices, which I did effectually, by giving them the following Account, as I received it from Mr. Lorrain himself, who, as I told them, had the best Opportunity in the World, to know the very bottom of Gregg's Heart; and whom all that know him, will attest to be a very Good, Pious, Honest Man.

Hearing some People very lately Reflect, &c. carries a very notable meaning; but who they were we know not and very probable it might be some Porter or Carman over their
Black

Black Pots, and so not worth taking notice of; or else I shou'd much wonder, that a Person so assiduous in vindicating Virtue, Merit, and Innocence, and so good a Friend to the Indjur'd Gentleman, shou'd not detect, and lay hold of those Scandalous Aspersions, and Endeavour to bring them to Condign Punishment; such an Instance wou'd have every way turn'd to Advantage, the Truth wou'd have manifestly appear'd, the Reputation of the Wrong'd would have been Vindicated in open Court; and not only that, but he himself, and all Men else, would the easier have believ'd that Mr. *Hoffman* retted up *Truth*, and really heard those Words, which I fancy he had only from some Euthusiastick Prophecy.

Mr. Lorrain did in a most solemn and ready manner declare to me, not only his being fully convinced of Mr. HARLEY's Innocence, but told me of so many Endeavours to corrupt Gregg's Conscience, not only with repeated Offers of Life, but of great Preferments and Advantages; that indeed on his Relation of it to me, I felt as much Uneasiness, lest he should betray his Master, as if it had been then my own Case.

Now *Mr. Lorrain* did in a most solemn manner declare to him *Mr. Harley's* Innocence, before it had heard nothing but from the common Vogue. As to the Endeavours us'd to corrupt *Gregg's* Conscience, I see none from his own Words but what would be made to any Traytor in the like Condition: It was hardly to be imagin'd

gin'd that he had engag'd in, and carried on so Notorious a piece of Treason of his own accord, and which was more, without having any Accomplices; and therefore his Answers seem'd obstinacy, tho' in reality they were otherwise, and the offering him all the Preferments and Advantages that Words could express, to get the Secret of him; nay, if they even went as far as saying, *Don't be afraid of the greatness of the Person, if your Master was concern'd, and you discover the Truth, you will be Protected;* I think there could be no great harm, as the matter then stood. But had they gone thus far as (as I am truly perswaded they did not) to offer him Pardon, and Preferments to Impeach his Master, Right or Wrong, then these Noted Persons had been highly to blame: But it is not consistent with Sense and Reason to suppose that Men of Figure and Parts should be liable to so excessive a piece of Folly as that, which would have branded their Illustrious Names with Infamy, and hung only upon the Breath of a Dying Man, one not much to be Trusted neither.

They were a Committee of Council, and 'tis to be presum'd, carry'd the matter as high as it would bear. The Promise of Life was a very good Inducement to wrong his Conscience; that of Preferment was another; they had a Subtle Fellow to deal with, and no Means were to be left untried to make a Discovery, which I believe they were satisfied of when he came to Die, and no Man alive could before, unless he had *Mr. Hoffman's* Spirit of Divination.

Consonant to this, I can repeat a Story still
fresh

fresh in all our Memories: " A certain Person
 " some few Years since was Condemn'd for a
 " Notorious Murder, and whilst he lay under
 " Sentence of Death for it, great Endeavours
 " were us'd to bring him to confess the same,
 " which had only been fasten'd on him by some
 " unluckly Circumstances. This Man was call'd
 the BUTCHER of GLOUCESTER. This
 obstinate Fellow Dy'd without confessing the
 Truth, asserted his Innocence with his last Breath,
 and that worthy Man's Labours and Persuasions
 were to no Effect. His Opinion was so strongly
 grounded on his Dying-Words, that he Preach'd
 his Funeral Sermon, and did him the Justice he
 then thought due to him, and his Auditors of
 Butchers, Prize Fighters and Rabble, applauded
 the Oration. But in process of time another of
 the Rioters and Murderers suffer'd Death, and at
 the Gallows declar'd, *That his former Companion,*
who had with such Confidence deny'd his being concern'd
in that Murder, was actually present, and had a Hand
in it. Mr. Lorrain told us afterwards that he had
 been mistaken in the Person, and deceiv'd by
 the Words of a Dying Man.

I Instance this to let him see that nothing
 ought to be left unsaid, no Offers unmade, or
 nothing unattempted that should excite a Per-
 son to confess the Truth.

There is a great deal more might be said to
 this Incongruous Piece, but by its being so
 patch'd and piec'd with Contradictions, it seems
 to be only a *Get-Penny*, wherefore I have done.

E I N I S.

